

HAKE STOCKS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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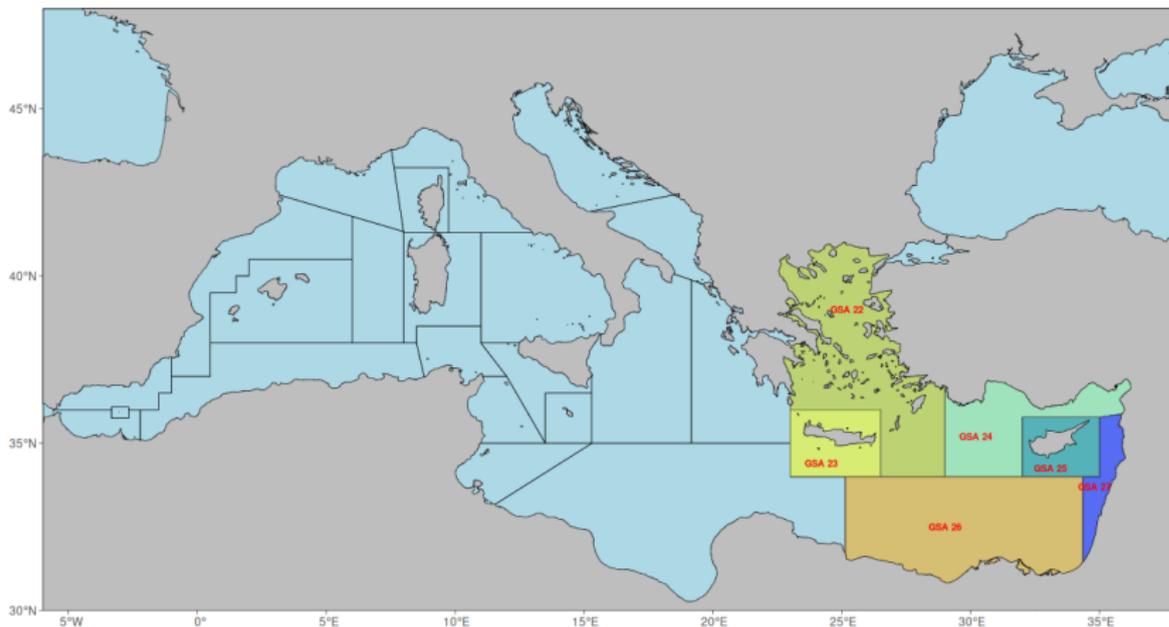
HCMR

MEDAC - Feb 22, 2026



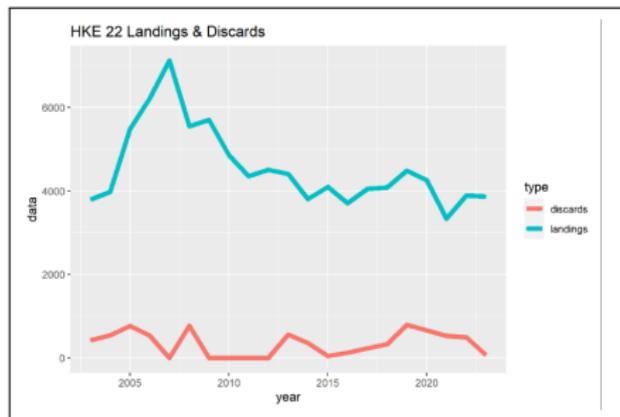
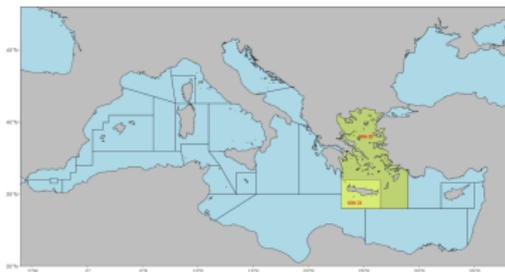
Eastern Mediterranean

- Species of high commercial value
- Fisheries data from five GFCM sub-areas
- Main gears: Bottom trawlers longlines and gillnets



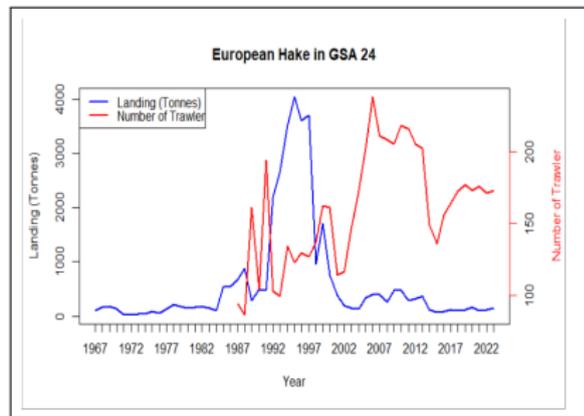
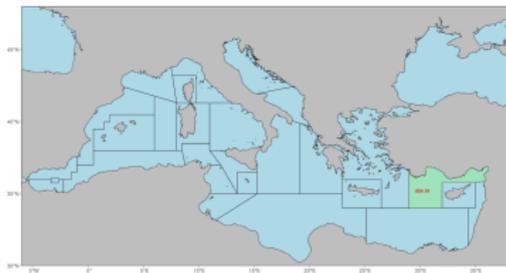
Fisheries Production - GSAs 22 & 23

- Catches around 4000 t in the last years ($\approx 98\%$ from GSA 22)



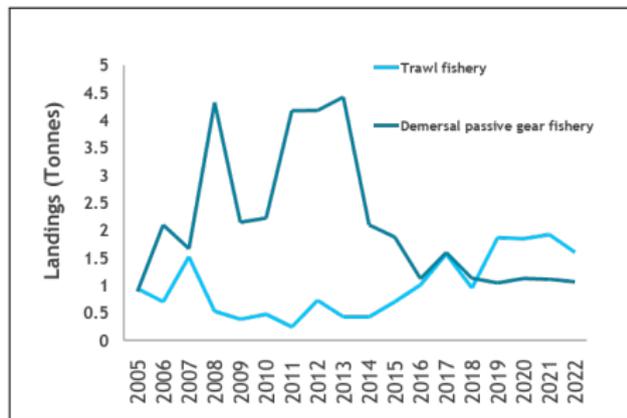
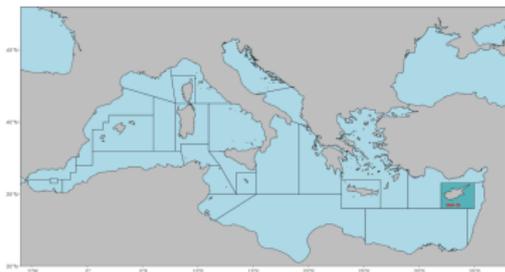
Fisheries Production - GSA 24

- Landings below 300 t in the last years



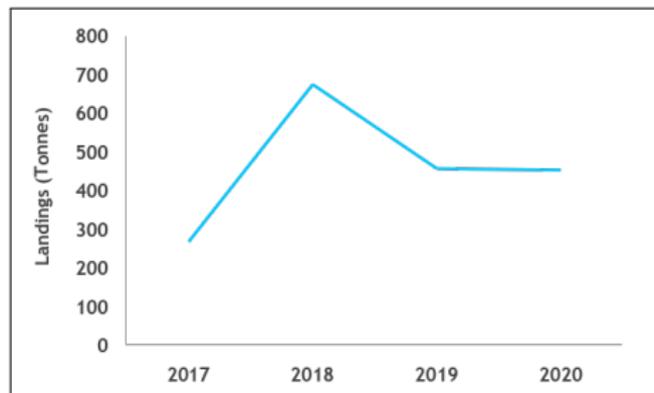
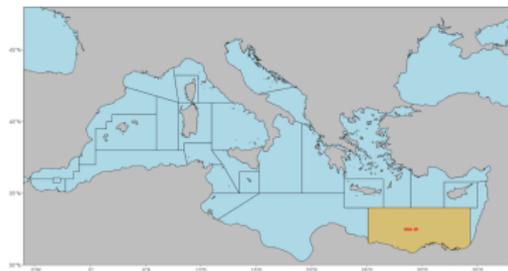
Fisheries Production - GSA 25

- Landings are relatively small (around 3 t in the last years)



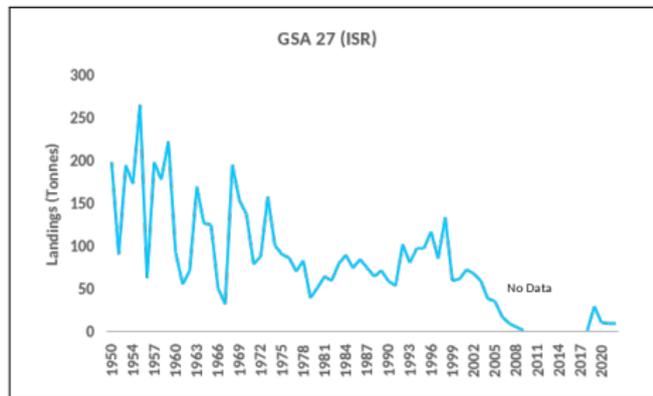
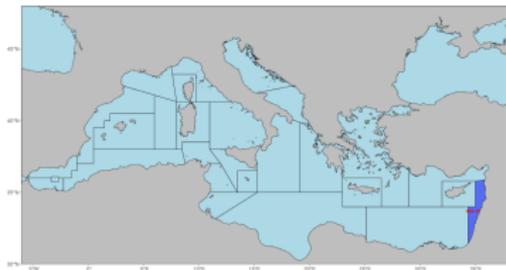
Fisheries Production - GSA 26

- Landings around 500 t in the last years



Fisheries Production - GSA 27

- Negligible landings in the most recent period



- Overall information is lacking as only the hake stock of GSA 22 (Aegean Sea) has been assessed so far.
- **GSA 22:** Due to high uncertainty on several stock parameters and insufficient fisheries data, there is only *qualitative assessment*, suggesting that the stock is *possibly in overexploitation*.

Availability of fisheries data:

- Missing and/or misreporting of catch data in several cases. In GSA 22 for instance, there is catch information only from Greek and Turkish fisheries
- Information on the size composition of the catch is not representative (does not fully cover all fishing gears and fleets)

Biological knowledge:

- There are pending questions on the growth rate of the species, particularly regarding differences among sexes
- The above is a key issue as it also affects our model assumptions about maturity and natural mortality at age

Roadmap of further work

Our knowledge on the hake stocks of the E. Mediterranean is quite limited and well behind the existing information for other Mediterranean regions.

Key topics that have to be advanced include:

- ✎ Collection of representative data from all fisheries exploiting a given area has to be intensified following EU and GFCM protocols.

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- ✎ Initialization of assessment studies in areas not studied so far has to be realized (already planned in GFCM).
- ✎ Development of integrated models to evaluate the potential effects of climate change on hake stocks is of particular importance in the E. Mediterranean and should be further promoted.



Thank you!